

period. Prior to that there was no export from India of semi-processed hides and skins.

White Paper on quantitative restrictions under WTO

4122. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to release a 'White Paper' on the quantitative restrictions on the items under the WTO to dispel notions and misgivings;

(b) if so, when such paper is going to be released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) to (c) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Another 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Quantitative restrictions on 714 items were removed on 31.03.2000 and import restrictions on the balance 715 items however removed on 31.03.2001.

Since this issue has been widely debated and since this is not a new development there does not seem to be any need for a 'White Paper' on the subject.

Memorandum received from Rubber Footwear Manufacturers

4123. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from All India Federation of Rubber Footwear Manufacturers for their long standing demand; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?